

The following is a marked version of the amended claims, with material to be deleted in brackets and material to be added underlined.

1. (Amended) A process for surface treatment of mineral materials[, characterized in that it includes] comprising the following steps:

- a) effect of laser radiation onto the surface and
- b) application of an organo-silicide composition onto the surface,

with the above-mentioned steps (a) and (b) being part of a treatment process essentially limited in time and which occur prior to further processing and/or use of said mineral materials.

3. (Amended) A process according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that by the effect of laser radiation, laser induced indentations are created with an average depth between 10 to 400 μm , particularly preferred between 20 to 200 μm .

4. (Amended) A process according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that by the effect of laser radiation at least 2.5 million surface indentations per m^2 are created.

5. (Amended) A process according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that as an organo-silicide composition alkylsilanole, alkylalkoxysilane, alkoxysilane, oligo and polysiloxane and/or silicone is applied, [sometimes having one or several of the following] any of which may have one or more of the functional groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, halogen, [in particular], chlorine, amino, carboxy, cyano, [methacryloxy] methacryloxy, epoxy, mercapto, and vinyl.

6. (Amended) A process according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that the organosilicide composition is applied in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

7. (Amended) A process according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that the organo-silicide composition is applied in the form of an aqueous dispersion containing a dispersing supporting agent.

8. (Amended) A process according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that the organo-silicide composition is applied in the form of an aqueous dispersion together with a fluoropolymer.

9. (Amended) A process according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, characterized in that subsequently to the application of the organo-silicide composition a surface treatment is performed by means of thermal energy, UV- or IR-radiation, microwaves and/or lasers.

10. (Amended) A mineral material, produced according to the process of Claim 1 characterized in that it [has] is provided with

A) laser induced surface indentations, a laser induced surface removal and/or a laser induced smoothening of the surface and

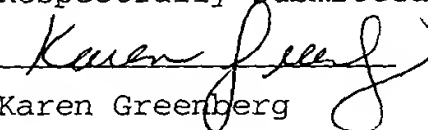
B) an organo-silicide composition on the surface[, in particular in the surface pore regions] and/or in the pore space of the mineral material near to the surface[, or the product of transformation, sometimes under the influence of an increased temperature, an organo-silicide composition with the surface of the mineral material].

12. (Amended) A mineral material according to claim 10 [10 or 11], characterized in that the laser induced surface indentations are provided with an average diameter between 5 and 900 μm , particularly preferred between 10 and 150 μm .

13. (Amended) A mineral material according to [claims 10 through 12] Claim 10, characterized in that the surface is provided with at least 2.5 million laser induced surface indentations per m^2 .

Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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